

The New NJ FamilyCare/Medicaid HBID Card Enters Phase 2!

The replacement of the monthly paper Medicaid eligibility identification card is in full swing! In Phase 2, cards will be mailed to clients in nine more counties. In September, 2006, clients living in Bergen, Cape May, Gloucester, Mercer, Morris, Salem, Somerset, Union and Warren counties will receive their new Health Benefits Identification (HBID) cards, and must begin using them on October 1, 2006. The HBID card is a permanent, plastic, magnetic strip card which replaces the monthly paper Medicaid card. Clients in Camden, Monmouth and Sussex counties have already received their HBID cards; clients in the remaining counties will receive their cards in subsequent months. Clients will continue to receive their monthly paper cards until they receive an HBID card. After a client receives his or her HBID card, that client will no longer receive a monthly paper card.

Key Facts about the HBID card:

- Each family member will receive his or her own card.
- The card is for identification purposes only; providers must still verify eligibility before services are provided.
- The HBID is a technology upgrade, not a policy change.
- People receiving the HBID card should use it the same way they use their monthly paper Medicaid card.

